



Everglades Boating Regulations

Navigable waters cover one third of the park, creating excellent fishing and boating opportunities. Please remember to exercise caution while boating in the Everglades. Carry all United States Coast Guard required items, including personal flotation devices, on board your boat. Always carry a nautical chart and compass as it is easy to become confused or lost while traveling through mangroves. Leave a float plan with family or friends. Check weather and tide predictions before leaving

shore and always be prepared for mosquitos. Please don't damage the sea bottom with your boat or outboard motor while enjoying park waters. Avoid propeller damage by using the channels to increase speed. Remember that collecting plants and animals in Everglades National Park is prohibited. This includes orchids, airplants, seahorses, starfish, conch, tropical fish, lobster, coral, sponges, and driftwood. One quart of non-occupied shells may be collected per person per day.

Boat Ramps

Boat ramps within Everglades National Park are located at Flamingo, Little Blackwater Sound, and West Lake. Several

commercial boat ramps are located in Everglades City and Chokoloskee.

Closed Areas

(Closed areas represent less than one percent of the total park area.)

In order to offer additional protection to wildlife habitat, the following areas are closed to the public:

Keys and Beaches of Florida Bay

With the exception of Carl Ross Key, Little Rabbit Key, North Nest Key, and Bradley Key (during daylight hours only) all keys and beaches in Florida Bay are closed to protect nesting and rookery areas. The waters immediately adjacent to Porjoe, Sandy Key, and the Tern Keys, as posted. The moats and internal creeks, as posted, associated with the Buchanan Keys.

Northeast Florida Bay

Closed areas include Little Madiera Bay, Taylor River, East

Creek, Mud Creek, Mud Bay, Davis Creek, Joe Bay and its easternmost portion, Snag Bay, and all creeks and back bays inland from the northern shoreline of Long Sound to US 1.

Pavilion Key

Landing is allowed only on the northernmost sand spit. The rest of the key is closed.

Other Areas

Rogers Bay Rookery, the small groups of islands at the southeast entrance to Gaskin Bay, known as Indian Key Rookery, and the Cuthbert Lakes and Rookery. Wading within 100 feet of any closed shoreline is prohibited. Other areas may be posted by order of the Park Superintendent.

Motor Restrictions

Motors are prohibited in the following areas: all freshwater lakes; Mud, Bear, East Fox, Middle Fox, Little Fox, and Gator Lakes; Homestead Canal; all associated lakes on Cape Sable inland from Lake Ingraham; Henry, Little Henry, Seven Palm, Middle, Monroe, Long, and the Lungs Lakes; Alligator Creek from the shoreline of Garfield Bight to West Lake; all inland lakes and creeks north of Long Sound, Joe Bay, and Little Madiera Bay except those ponds and lakes

associated with Taylor River, Bear Lake, Noble Hammock, Coot Bay Pond, and Mud Lake Canoe Trails; Raulerson's Marsh; Hell's Bay Canoe Trail from the trailhead to the mouth of creek at Lard Can campsite; Paurotis Pond; Nine Mile Pond; from the creek at southeast end of West Lake (into Long Lake) through to the mouth of Alligator Creek at Garfield Bight. Watercraft with engines of six horsepower or less are permitted on West Lake but not beyond.

No Wake Zones and Boating Impacts

Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine environment. Be careful when navigating in shallow waters, using a pushpole or paddle when necessary. Operation of a vessel in excess of five mph is prohibited in:

Everglades City Area

Alligator Creek, Plate Creek, Halfway Creek, and between Wilderness Waterway Markers 86 & 87.

Key Largo Area

Marker 42 Creek, the Boggies, Shell Creek, Nest Key, and McCormick Creek.

Flamingo Area

Both boat basins; Tarpon, Avocado, and North Prong Creeks; Coot Bay, Buttonwood, and East Cape Canals.

Water Skis and Personal Watercraft

The towing of persons by vessels utilizing water skis, hydra slides, knee boards, or other similar types of equipment is prohibited. The operation of personal watercraft, also

known as "Wet Bikes", "Jet Skis", and other trade names, is prohibited.